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Agenda item 69 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177, of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,[1]

Recalling its resolution 47/133, of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also its resolution 63/186 of 18 December 2008, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 10/10, in which the Council took note of the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and its recommendations,[2]

[1] Resolution 61/177, annex.

[2] A/HRC/10/9.

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Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recognizing the importance of the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, as set out in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized by the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

Acknowledging also the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with relevant international humanitarian law in this field,

Recognizing that the entry into force of the Convention, as soon as possible, through its ratification by twenty States, will be a significant contribution to end impunity and to the promotion and protection of human rights,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that eighty-one States have signed the Convention and sixteen have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States which have yet not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, with a view to its entry into force by December 2009;

3. *Further welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;[3]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

5. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental, non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to continue undertaking efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it, to prepare for its entry into force and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

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[3] A/64/171.